



Request for Pilot Proposals
Center on Aging and Population Sciences (CAPS)

Proposal Deadline: January 22, 2021

We invite investigators to submit proposals for pilot funding to support research projects for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Pilot Project Goals

We seek cutting edge research to illuminate how biological, psychosocial, and environmental factors intersect throughout the life course to generate disparities in health and well-being at older ages.

Proposals will be given priority that address:

- Life course precursors of later life health and well-being
- Family demography, social engagement, and social isolation
- Place and health including neighborhoods, geographic region, and other indicators of place

Pilot projects should be designed to support the development of a larger research project that will be submitted under an NIA grant mechanism (R03, R01, R21). Pilot projects are not intended to support work to complete a study or as an addendum to an existing project. NIA considers the success rate of grants submitted from the pilot projects when making decisions about funding future CAPS pilot projects.

Budget

Pilot projects may be funded up to the amount of \$40,000. Pilot project budgets may be used to cover expenses related to the proposed study within guidelines for federally allowable expenses. In special circumstances, larger budgets will be considered. Investigator salary may not be included in the budget. Please email caps@utexas.edu to develop a sufficiently detailed budget for the pilot proposal.

Project time periods are for one year, and all proposed work should be accomplished during that period. Again, this is an important metric in reporting to NIA on the success of our pilot program. Depending on NIA allocations, we will typically fund 4 to 5 projects

Pilot Project Proposal Requirements

- **Description of project 2 pages**
 - Specific Aims and significance
 - Methods section
- **Timeline (approx. ¼ page)**
 - Tasks and goals for the project broken down by quarters.
 - Plan for submitting larger grant to NIA, specifying the mechanism
- **Budget (approx. ½ to 1 page)**
 - Detailed budget
 - Budget justification
- **NIH Biosketch**

Projects selected for funding will also be required to provide an NIH section on human subjects

- **NIH protection of human subjects information including enrollment table**
- **IRB approval**

Review Criteria

- Topic area: Alignment with CAPS themes and population science
- Potential impact and innovation: Extending prior science via cutting-edge methodology
- Scientific design: Including conceptual framework, methodology, and measurement
- Feasibility: Timeline and budget appropriate for project goals and design
- End product goals: Presentations, publications, grant submission
- Investigators:
 - Early stage investigators:
 - Track record of publication
 - Strong interest in grant proposal process and intention to submit a proposal
 - Consultants and mentors appropriate for the project
 - Mid-career and senior investigators
 - History of high impact research
 - Funding record
 - Investigative team has high potential for funding from NIA
- Project teams including investigators who are:
 - New to aging research
 - From under-represented groups
 - Multidisciplinary
- Collaboration with other NIA funded P30 centers also is encouraged

Questions may be addressed to:

Karen Fingerman, kfingerman@austin.utexas.edu or Debra Umberson, umberson@austin.utexas.edu

Submit proposals to caps@utexas.edu

Subject: Attn: Pilot Project Proposal